

JOSEPH S. AND WIVES,
NANCY ELIZABETH CUM-
MINGS AND MARY M. JONES
McDONALD



Joseph S. McDonald was born in Belfast, Down County, Ireland on October 15, 1842, a son of James and Sarah Ferguson McDonald. Married Nancy Elizabeth Cummings in 1863. She was born in Gibson County, Tenn., a daughter of John and Rachel Kennedy Cummings. She died October 18, 1881. He then married Mary Melinda in 1883 a daughter of Elisha and Sarah Ann Cummings Jones of Heber. Joseph died February 15, 1930, and Mary died Dec 7, 1936.

Joseph S. McDonald's parents, of Scotch descent, were born and reared in Northern Ireland. Joseph was the seventh child in the family.

In 1841 the McDonalds were one of the first four families in their community to join The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. After selling their possessions for \$200 in 1843 they came as immigrants to America with 250 other saints.

They joined the main body of the Church in Nauvoo, Ill., and lived there for two and a half years. After the martyrdom of the Prophet they were driven out of Nauvoo and moved to Bonepart, Iowa, and later to Kanesville, Iowa. The father and older boys worked diligently to support the family and also to get wagons, teams and provisions to cross the plains with the other saints.

In June of 1850 the family joined the Aaron Johnson Company and began their journey across the plains. Cholera broke out in the company and many lost their lives including James, June 17, 1850, just one week after the trek started. His wife Sarah, was filled with grief, but with assistance of kind friends she was able to bring her family to Salt Lake City, arriving there on September 12, 1850.

Sarah was advised by the leaders of the Church to settle her family in Mountainville (now Alpine) where feed was plentiful for their animals. The following spring they moved to Springville, where they lived until 1862. When Sarah moved to Heber, Wasatch County, during that year, Joseph and most of the family accompanied her. Here they took up land, built homes and became farmers and stockmen.

Joseph married Nancy Elizabeth Cummings in 1863. To this union was born the following children: Sarah Jane, Joseph Cummings, Rachel, James X, Mary Ann, John, Isaac David.

Nancy was a helpful companion to Joseph, and a cheerful, loving mother for their children. She died after an illness of eighteen months.

Joseph married Mary Melinda Jones in 1883. She was born March 23, 1863. They lived in Heber for a few years, then Joseph took up a homestead in Buysville and moved his family there in 1892, where he went into the sheep business.

Mary assumed the place of a second mother to her husband's children and also bore the following children, two of whom died in infancy: William, Nancy Elizabeth, Sarah Ann, Edna, Ina, Otto, Stella, Jennie, Hyrum, Gladys.

Joseph S. took into his home and cared for Chester Davis, Nels Peterson and Arthur Bartell, all orphan boys.

The family always took an active part in their community and Church affairs, which brought great happiness to all of them.

Joseph inherited many fine qualities from his parents, their Scotch thrift, ambition and a bit of Irish wit as well. He loved to entertain his family with stories of his early life, especially of his experiences as a soldier in the Black Hawk Indian War.

Mary was a patient, kind, humble woman and was loved by all. Hard work and many responsibilities were her daily companions. She was very devoted to the Gospel and had a burning testimony as evidence of her faith.

Though Mary and Joseph have long since died, their children love and revere their memories.

Let's Get Acqu

by Ruby Compton
Wave Columnist

From the writings of Joseph Smith McDonald, youngest son of James and Sarah Ferguson McDonald (of whom I wrote a few weeks ago), I would like to write in his words of a bit of Wasatch Valley history.

"...At the time I was twenty four years old, I was enlisted in the United States Army and set apart as a Minute Man. I had to keep the riding horses and saddles in good shape, and plenty of ammunition on hand for use at a minutes notice. The Indians were all gone and the leading men thought they were gathering to make a raid on the settlements."

"A man from Springville was chosen to go out scouting, he was to choose one man to go with him, he chose me. Next day I got notice from Colonel Page to appear in Springville for further orders. The next day we started and we found some Indians who were taking their women east where they would be safe. We were gone seven or eight days. When we got back I told Captain Wall about the trip as the Indians had been giving us a good deal of trouble in Wasatch County, (at that time Wasatch County extended east to the Colorado state line)."

"In order to keep the cattle safe, the people of the valley kept them in one group where they could graze while protected by ten men taking turns as guards. Other men drew guard duty from Cliff farm in Daniel Canyon along the ridge to the Lake Creek pass. Each man kept his assignment for seven or eight days."

"About ten or 15 good Indians came in and said they wanted peace. Bishop Joe Murdock ordered a big feast under the bowery and the settlers ate with the Indians. They gave beef and bedding, all they could take with them because they were wanting peace. Next night the peace makers stole 30 head of horses to pack the gifts off with. We followed them as far as Green River and got some of the horses, but we never saw an Indian."

"Of the few settlers in the valley at that time, (this would be about 1866) there were only ten or 12 men fit to ride horses so it kept the ones busy who could ride. The guard duty was done by men on foot, mostly."

"By this time, I was made a 1st Lieutenant and busy with picket guard duty on the ridge between the Indians and the valley. We took turns, three at a time, walking the ridge. One night John Cummings was struck by lightning; he recovered to live many years."

"After recovering some stolen cattle from three Indians, word

came that Chief Tabby was getting ready for trouble, the settlers in the valleys wanted to make peace and Brigham Young ordered 100 head of cattle to be delivered to Chief Tabby."

"Captain William M. Wall was told to choose ten men to accompany him and deliver the cattle to Tabby in person. I was one of the ten men chosen to go. We were told not to come back until the delivery was made. It took three days to get back to where Chief Tabby was at the Indian farm on the Duchesne River and for the interpreter we had sent to get back to us."

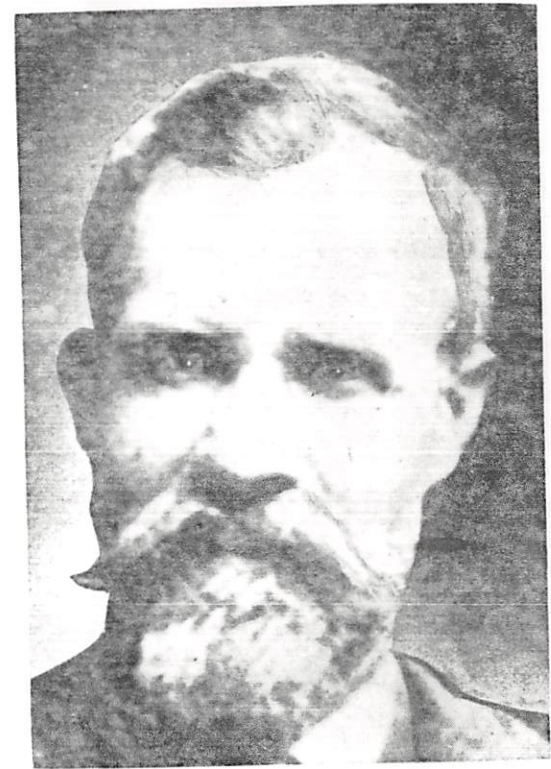
"The American Government Agent permitted us to use a two roomed blockhouse across from the one he used, but he was extremely surly with us and called us 'Mormon Dogs.' Late one day the man who kept the store came over and said, 'They have started to kill every one of you. I can't see you killed for nothing, I think they will attack you tomorrow night. Now I have all kinds of ammunition, and as soon as it gets dark so the Agent can't see you, send your men over to pack it back to this house. All I ask is that you use it if you have to. I have a two-inch auger; set your men to making port holes for themselves. I have a big 40 gallon barrel, bring it to this house and fill it with water. I have a big rope, bore some holes through some posts, string the rope through after the posts are set deep and strong; tie your horses securely so they cannot be run off.' He wasted no time and went back to his store."

"We worked hard all night, and next morning after breakfast we felt pretty good. The Agent came over and looked around then said, 'Gentlemen, do you know whose house this is?' I said, 'Uncle's, I guess.' He never answered but

walked around looking through the port holes 'til he came to one, when he looked through it he said, 'G.D. that is straight for my door!' The man who owned the port hole tapped the Agent on the shoulder and said, 'You are the first Indian we intend to kill.' I never saw a man get out of a house as quick and he didn't bother us any more."

"The Indians came into the cedars and made camp next night. Then next morning we saw a messenger come as fast as his horse could run; he came right up to our interpreter and said, 'Tabby is coming in on the charge and says there are ten or 15 Indians painted black, and they are going to shoot as soon as they get close enough. They will not mind me.' Al Hunting, our interpreter, slapped him on the leg and told him to tell Tabby that if he came in on the run we would commence shooting. Captain Wall asked Hunting why he sent that message and he said if they came on the run some of them would shoot. In 15 or 20 minutes they formed a line with Tabby to the left and they came in on the walk. They surrounded the Agent's house and Tabby dismounted and went in. Captain Wall said, 'I must know what is going on in that house. Lieutenant McDonald, you pick a man and stand in this door and don't let a white man out, or a red man in.' There was some excitement as the men took his position at his port hole, ready for action."

"Captain Wall went to tell Tabby that Brigham Young had sent him to bring 100 head of beef to make peace and talk over the troubles, and that we had been giving we said bring Wa



Joseph S. McDonald

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